



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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MONTANA CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES 2006

Helena, Mont. --- Workplace deaths in Montana decreased 10 percent from 2005 to 2006, with a total of 45 work-related fatalities, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) study report released today by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.

“Employees and their families need to feel assured that employers are providing approved work practices in a safe working environment,” said Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Keith Kelly. “Instilling a culture of safety can have a profound affect on workplace productivity, coworkers, and family members for many years.”

Transportation incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal work related event and accounted for 30 (67 percent) of the 45 fatal occupational injuries to Montana workers during 2006.

- Contact with objects, exposure to harmful substances, and fatalities resulting from falls each had four (9 percent)
- Assaults & violent acts accounted three (7 percent) fatalities
- Thirty-three (73 percent) of the employees fatally injured worked for others, earning wages or salaries.
- Twelve (27 percent) were self-employed workers -- including farmers and paid and unpaid family workers.

(more)

The natural resources and mining industry led in fatal occupational injuries with 14 of the total (31 percent). The second highest industry was transportation and warehousing with seven fatalities (16 percent), followed by construction with six (13 percent) fatalities in 2006. Manufacturing and information industries both reported four (9 percent) fatalities each.

The age category with highest number of workplace fatalities was the 45-54 years category with 18 deaths (40 percent), followed by the 65 years and older category with seven deaths (16 percent).

The fatality census, conducted throughout the nation, is part of a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics program that provides a complete count of fatal work injuries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fatality statistics are used to fulfill a commitment to increasing safety in the workplace.

Information on work-related illnesses is excluded from this census because of the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the resulting difficulties associated with linking illnesses to work.

For additional information, or a copy of the report, contact Peggy Coggeshall at the Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, 406-444-2430. To learn more about incorporating a safety culture in your work environment, contact DLI Safety Bureau's Chris Catlett, 406-444-1605.

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